



VOLUNTARY PATERNITY QUARTERLY

**DCSS Hospital
Paternity Program**

Third Quarter 2013

July-September

Message from Patricia Martinez

Did you ever wonder what happens to an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP) with an error? The Hospital Paternity Program (HPP) receives on average about 75 to 150 AOP documents every day. The majority of AOP's arrive by mail from various hospitals throughout the State of Arizona. Some are mailed in from parents and others come in from smaller Vital Records offices' in outlying counties. HPP also receives a handful of AOP's from walk-in parents, and also from HPP's weekly courier run to the State and County Office of Vital Records. It would be ideal if every AOP coming into HPP was good to go; unfortunately that is not always the case.

AOP's containing mistakes or errors are rejected and given the term "rewrite." Rewrites are assigned to an HPP staff to begin the process of contacting the hospital and parents to obtain a corrected AOP. HPP staff begins the "rewrite" process by first contacting the hospital where the child was born to determine if the error was a hospital or parental error. If the mistake was a hospital error, hospital staff are responsible for sending a correction letter to the State Office of Vital Records (OVR) so that OVR staff can make the necessary corrections to the birth record. An example of a hospital error would include an AOP in which the information on the AOP matches the information on the hospital worksheet, but does not match the transmitted birth record. Hospital staff should send the correction letter to OVR as soon as it has been determined the error was due to hospital error. HPP staff will continue to monitor the birth record for the correction. The AOP can be processed once the corrections have been completed to the birth record.

What if the error was a parental error? If after contacting the hospital and determining the error was a parental error, HPP staff will contact the parent by phone to explain the purpose of the call and attempt to obtain a corrected AOP. HPP follows up with a letter to the parent. The HPP staff will document the communication log in the OVR database. The documentation serves to let anyone in OVR or HPP know the status of the AOP should a parent call to inquire. A 60 day time period is set and if no response, or if HPP does not receive a corrected AOP from the parent, the Office of Vital Records (OVR) is contacted and requested to remove the father from the birth record.

How can hospital staff help to reduce errors to the AOP process? Review the AOP for accuracy while the parents are still in front of you and before sending the AOP to HPP. If HPP and hospital staff determine the mistake was hospital error, send the correction letter to OVR the same day so that there is no delay in the process. And finally, if the AOP is completed in the hospital, ask the parents to verify birth dates, spelling and other information. Remember, a timely effort will prevent more work later.

Thank you for all that you do!!

Patricia Martinez
Hospital Paternity Program Manager

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*Working together
to make a difference!*

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
BIRTHS TO UNWED PARENTS	3,486	3,471	3,442
HPP ESTABLISHED PATERNITIES	2,190	3,095	2,171
TOTAL PERCENT	63%	89%	63%

Do you or your hospital staff need HPP related training? Please feel free to call us any time!

Phone (602) 771-8181
Fax (480) 545-1009





QUESTION:	A father signed the Acknowledgment of Paternity form at the hospital when his child was born. The father's name is on the birth certificate. However, during a heated argument with his girlfriend, she blurted out that he was not the father of the baby. The girlfriend has since recanted. Understandably, he now has serious doubts. Is it too late for the father to request genetic testing?
ANSWER:	If it has been less than 60 days since he signed the voluntary acknowledgment, he has the right to ask for testing. Refer the father to the Hospital Paternity Program at 1-800-485-6908 to request information on how to rescind the Acknowledgment of Paternity, and for information regarding genetic testing. If the 60 days have expired, per Arizona Revised Statute 25-812, Section E., the mother, father or child may challenge a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity established in this state at any time after the 60 day rescission period only on the basis of fraud, duress, or material mistake of fact, with the burden of proof on the challenger (A.R.S. 25-812, Section E.) Any parent or party wishing to challenge a voluntary acknowledgment of paternity after the 60 day period should contact a private attorney or inquire within the courts for information on how to proceed.
QUESTION:	I submitted an AOP and included the mother's divorce decree because mother was still married to her husband when she and her boyfriend conceived the child. HPP rejected the AOP because the divorce decree did not mention the child. Mom did not know she was pregnant at the time of divorce, how is she supposed to include the child in the divorce decree?
ANSWER:	When a child is born within a marriage, the husband is presumed to be the father. The mother was legally married to someone else when she conceived the child named on the Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP). There is no mention of the pregnancy or the unborn child in the divorce decree. Therefore, the divorce decree cannot be used to rebut the paternity (prove the husband is not the father). The mother will have to obtain a Waiver of Paternity Affidavit from the ex-husband and submit the signed Waiver along with the AOP. Please contact the Hospital Paternity Program to obtain a copy of the Waiver of Paternity Affidavit form.
QUESTION:	Child was born alive, and died 3 hours later, parents are not married. Can the parent's sign an Acknowledgment of Paternity (AOP)?
ANSWER:	Yes, parents may acknowledge paternity by signing the AOP.

Why is establishing Paternity so important?

Children whose fathers play an active role in their lives develop better language skills and have fewer behavioral problems, even when their fathers do not live at home. Establishing paternity gives a child born outside of a marriage the same legal rights as a child born to married parents. You can make a difference!!!



YOU'RE GOING TO CALL ME WHAT!!!

Uncommon Baby Names

by The HPP Team

Have you run across any creative names lately & would like to share with other readers? Here are a few that we have seen:

- Dog Soldier
- Hostin
- Society Noemi
- Daxton Grizzly
- Sweetie
- Shaydee Nicole
- Symphony Roze

- Icelynn Jane
- Ahlixzondriah

If you have any Uncommon Baby Names you would like to add please email them to kgoodall@azdes.gov and we will print them in the next newsletter.

Rules: First names and middle names only, Arizona births & no date of birth's. Looking forward to hearing from you.!!



Maricopa County DPH Office of Vital Registration



Greetings from the Office of Vital Registration!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer and that the upcoming holidays bring you joy. As you are all well aware, this is a busy time for all of us with the new upcoming Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Vital Records Electronic Birth Registry System rollout is approaching this January 1, 2014. For those of you who may not be aware, this rollout is very important for Arizona because this now means that we will be compliant with the latest National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) data standard. It is this data that determines how resources for research, education and disease prevention efforts occur at various levels. This will benefit our community tremendously and you are an integral part of our success.

Recently, I had the opportunity to attend our regional national association meeting in Reno, Nevada. Every state, territory and some counties are members of an association called the National Association of Public Health Statistics and Information Systems. This association is comprised of members from the vital records, vital statistics and epidemiology community. Among the many benefits that this association brings, the opportunity to network with other colleagues is invaluable. We can learn of others successes or challenges, what not to do because they've already failed at it and so much more. I'm sharing this with you because I'd like you to know that despite our challenges, we are in a relatively good place. We are fortunate to have good people like you doing this good work alongside us.

We are always available to you and would like you to rely on us as a resource for training, guidance and support. Additionally, we would like to invite you to visit us to learn about our workflow as it relates to birth registration and issuance or fetal death registration and issuance. Our doors are always open to you and if it is more convenient for you, we can also visit you. We intend to make it a point to visit all birth facilities in Maricopa County in 2014. In anticipation of this visit, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Rabusa at 602-506-6814 or send her an email at elizabethrabusa@mail.maricopa.gov or Yolanda Hernandez at 602-506-6438.

We'd also like to share the names of members of our team from each office that serves the public and may contact you to request a copy of a completed worksheet that may result in a request for a subsequent correction letter. Main Office - Yolanda Hernandez, Michelle Castorena, Lily Carrillo, Juan Rodriguez and Elsa Rodriguez. St. Mary's Satellite - Stephanie Coombs, Luisanna Beltran, Hilda Astorga and Teresa Carrasco. Greenfield Satellite - Amy Radeka, Jolie Amaya, Cristina Farnsworth, and Renika King. When we call you, we usually do so while the parent is in our office since we make every attempt to process the correction for the customer while they wait; however, we realize that you may not be readily available so we may leave you a message. Thank you for your prompt response to such inquiries.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. We appreciate you and the great work you do. The Office of Vital Registration wishes you all a very happy and safe holiday season!

Sincerely,

Michele Castaneda-Martinez



MARICOPA COUNTY OFFICES OF VITAL REGISTRATION CONTACTS

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Quality Assurance Supervisor
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Greenfield Satellite Supervisor
(480) 924-6315

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(602) 272-2631

Lindsey Hall
Medical Certification &
Disposition Unit Supervisor
(602) 372-2635

Heather Hoffman
HRRF Coordinator
(602) 506-8110

Fetal Death Registration &
Issuance Supervisor
Sam Burris
Interim Supervisor
(602) 506-3588

FACT: In 2012, 45% of babies born in Arizona were born out of wedlock.

FACT: In 2012, there were 87,071 babies born in Arizona.

FACT: Of that amount, 39,049 babies were born to unwed mothers.



Voluntary Paternity Workshop July 12, 2013

Special Thanks to all eight July Attendees!



July's Attendees

Jodie Margolies
Banner Del Webb Medical Center

Claire Garganera
Banner Del Webb Medical Center

Tina Proffitt
Maricopa Integrated Health System

Susan Lacher
Verde Valley Medical Center

Lea Wood
Verde Valley Medical Center

Ashley Barnett
Pinal County Vital Registration

Alicia Cruz
Pinal County Vital Registration

Sally Lem
Tempe St. Lukes Hospital



"The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence."

-Denis Waitley-



To the right: The DCSS Hospital Paternity Program had a resource table at this year's Healthy Baby Expo that was held on Saturday September 21st at The Renaissance Westgate in Glendale. The Healthy Baby Expo is a "one-stop-shop" for pregnant and new parents with vendors featuring baby proofing tips, swaddling demonstrations and of course paternity establishment information. Patricia Martinez and Jillian Seamans hosted a break-out session to educate new parents of the hospital paternity program and the importance of establishing paternity. The event was a huge success with almost 1,000 people in attendance.



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Send completed Acknowledgement of Paternity (AOP) forms to the Hospital Paternity Program (HPP). This gives your site credit for the paternities established.
- Ensure that parents do NOT take original completed AOP with them. Send the originals to the HPP team for processing. Do NOT give the parents a copy of the unprocessed AOP.
- Proof-read the AOP before submitting it to HPP. We have seen AOP's with missing witness dates, incorrect hospital addresses, etc. Proof-reading for accuracy can avoid them being returned for correction or for parents to complete a new AOP.



SHOOTING STARS

UNWED BIRTHS
10,396

AOP Paternities
6,327 (60.86%)

3RD QUARTER 2013

Yavapai Regional Hospital	80.65%	Verde Valley Medical Center	80.25%
Whiteriver Indian Hospital	80.00%	Kingman Regional Medical Center	77.32%
Banner Del E. Webb Hospital	76.77%	Mercy Gilbert Medical Center	75.84%

** Shooting Stars are awarded based on quarterly compliance numbers of 75% and above.*

The Hospital Paternity Program commends birth registrars and nursing staff statewide for aiding Arizona's children. On a daily basis, you all demonstrate tremendous team work and effort as you work to get them a *legal father*. Those hospitals reaching a 75% or higher compliance rate this quarter are listed above. Congratulations to everyone!

FACT: In 2012 the Division of Child Support Services Hospital Paternity Program established 31,097 paternities.

Out and About

FACT: In 2012, there was an average of 239 babies born daily in Arizona.

The Division of Child Support Services (DCSS) Hospital Paternity Program (HPP) visits all birthing hospitals each year to conduct the Annual Hospital Compliance Review. Pursuant to Title 45 CFR 303.5, the DCSS HPP is responsible for overseeing Arizona's voluntary paternity programs and initiatives and the monitoring of birthing hospital compliance on at least an annual basis.

The scope of the review is to ensure the availability and accuracy of both written materials and oral explanations regarding the rights and responsibilities of paternity establishment to unwed parents. Further, the review seeks to determine the awareness and understanding of the voluntary paternity program by all birthing staff. We also seek to identify methods to assist you in increasing your hospital's compliance rate in establishing voluntary paternities for babies born to unwed parents at your hospital.

Listed below are the hospitals that were visited this quarter in July and September.

JULY

Arrowhead Hospital	Banner Del Webb
Banner Estrella Medical Center	Banner Thunderbird
Maryvale Medical Center	Phoenix Baptist Hospital
West Valley Hospital	

SEPTEMBER

Carondelet St. Josephs Hospital	Carondelet Holy Cross
Casa Grande Regional Medical Center	El Rio Birth and Womens Health Center
Flagstaff Hospital	Ft. Defiance Indian Hospital
Little Colorado Medical Center	Mt. Graham Regional Medical Center
Northwest Medical Center	Payson Regional Medical Center
Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center	Summit Regional Medical Center
Tucson Medical Center	University Medical Center
Whiteriver Indian Hospital	



The Newsletter is Back!



We are getting back on track. Regular quarterly submissions will be coming to your email.

We would like to include your information in the Newsletter.

Please submit your interesting information, best practices, new staff, and other articles to us so we can get the word out on what all of your sites are doing.

Submit information to:

kgoodall@azdes.gov

**Division of Child Support
Services
Hospital Paternity
Program**

**Do you or your hospital need HPP
related training?
HPP staff are here for you.
Call us!!**

**Phone: (602) 771-8181
Fax: (480) 545-1009
Email: DCSSHOPPAT@azdes.gov**



**Need paternity handout
pamphlets?
Contact DCSS HPP**

**CALLING ALL E-MAIL ADDRESSES!
SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND
RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER
ELECTRONICALLY!!**

Voluntary Paternity Workshops for 2014

<i>January 10th</i>	<i>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</i>
<i>April 18th</i>	<i>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</i>
<i>July 11th</i>	<i>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</i>
<i>October 10th</i>	<i>9:00 am - 12:00 pm</i>

Location: 2290 W. Guadalupe Rd. Bldg 3
Gilbert, AZ 85233

Interested in attending our Hospital Paternity Workshop?

Contact: Rosalinda Miranda at RMiranda@azdes.gov

Or

Connie Monterrosa at CMonterrosa@azdes.gov

Don't miss this opportunity!!!

Workshops

Hospital Paternity Program training on the Voluntary Paternity Workshop is available on a regular basis at the HPP office in Gilbert. These classes are offered in addition to the individual hospital visits HPP staff make. Birth recorder supervisors are encouraged to attend, as well.

Training includes hands-on forms with an in-depth discussion on the importance of accurate, complete, and timely information. Information related to voluntary paternity is covered. Each training session begins promptly at 9:00 am and ends at approximately 12:00 noon.

DCSS Hospital Paternity Program Voluntary Paternity Quarterly Newsletter

This newsletter is intended for individuals and birthing staff who are involved with the Arizona Voluntary Paternity Program. The intent is to publish the newsletter four times a year. Resource budget limitations may cause publications to deviate from the normal publication schedule. We welcome articles submissions and would especially like to hear from Arizona birthing staff.

Kristi Goodall
DCSS Outreach Officer / Newsletter Reporter
DCSSHOPPAT@azdes.gov
(602) 771-6446



Weirdest Baby Products Ever



Shape of an Angel

Send Japanese company Fasotec an MRI of your fetus and for under \$2000 they'll create a 3-D replica that comes in an elegant jewelry box.



Baby Toupee

Preventing baby self-consciousness one toupee at a time.



The Baby Mop

The Baby Mop will put your little one to work and teach them the value of some hard work.



Baby Diaper Alarm/Predictor

This product that will save you money for diaper rash ointment. Sinus' or not you will always know if your little one has a present waiting for you.



Crying Baby Analyzer

Stop guessing whether your baby is hungry, tired, bored or in pain, this product will let you know.



The Ritmo Advanced Pregnancy Sound System

For \$149.99 you can snag this 4 speaker belt with the utmost quality. It will satisfy even the most pretentious baby.

WORD SEARCH

Hospital	Midwives	Nurses
Recorders	Paternity	Maternity
Vital Records	Rewrites	Accuracy
Compliance	Medical Center	Workshops
Vital Registration	Attendees	Resources
Education	Benefit	Statistics
Epidemiology	Challenges	Training
Guidance	Support	Facilities
Fetal	Worksheet	Proofread
Accuracy	Correction	Health



B	Y	C	A	R	U	C	C	A	S	V	U	L	A	T	E	F	E
B	Z	Y	R	E	B	A	L	A	T	I	P	S	O	H	G	O	A
M	V	S	S	S	Y	Y	I	M	M	T	P	U	C	T	S	S	I
D	J	E	C	O	Y	G	C	T	A	A	A	P	Y	L	R	E	V
P	Z	E	I	U	B	O	H	M	T	L	T	P	R	A	E	T	W
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A	C	C	U	R	A	C	Y	E	C	N	A	I	L	P	M	O	C